

age when he was elected, and not yet crowned
 Emperor at Rome, was a man of long experience
 in war and of stubborn pride, a German patriot
 and likely if he interfered in Italy to do so with effect.

The Eastern Empire had in its days of power
 scorned the barbarian upstart of the West. But
 misfortunes had abated its pride and brought it to
 terms with the Empire which Lothar now governed.

In 1071 Byzantium lost both South Italy and Asia
 Minor, and though Alexius recovered something
 of the latter the old frontiers were never regained;
 in addition her fleets in the course of a century
 almost disappeared; Venice and Genoa supplied
 her with ships and patrolled the seas about her
 coasts; in return they exacted free trading rights,
 privileged quarters in the capital and other sea-
 ports, and began to fasten on the Empire like some
 parasitic growth. Yet considerable military and
 naval strength still remained to the East Roman
 realm; the services continued to produce leaders of
 talent and courage; above all her foreign office
 was conducted with much of the old skill and
 finesse. The character of her Emperors was all in
 her favour; John II. Comnenus (1118-1143) was a

gallant and vigorous prince whose
heart was set
on recovering every lost claim of the
Empire in
Asia Minor or on the Italian coast.

The day of Universal Empire was in
the past.
That of the free cities and of national
monarchy
was to come. The principle of
monarchy, national